

PROBA SCRISĂ LA LIMBA ENGLEZĂ

Bilingv – proba e

Sesiunea iunie - iulie 2005

Varianta 1

- ◆ Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. Se acordă 10 puncte din oficiu.
- ◆ Timpul efectiv de lucru este de 3 ore.

SUBJECT 1

30 points

a. Read the text below and sum it up in about 50 words:

5 points

Henry Blodgett looked at his wristwatch and saw that it was two o'clock in the morning. In despair, he slammed shut the textbook he'd been studying and let his head sink onto his arms on the table in front of him. He knew he'd never pass that examination tomorrow; the more he studied geometry the less he understood it. Mathematics in general had always been difficult for him and now he was finding that geometry was impossible for him to learn. And if he flunked it, he was through with college; he'd flunked three other courses in his first two years and another failure this year would, under college rules, cause automatic expulsion. He wanted that college degree badly too, since it was indispensable for the career he'd chosen and worked toward. Only a miracle could save him now.

He sat up suddenly as an idea struck him. Why not try magic? The occult had always interested him. He had books on it and he'd often read the simple instructions on how to conjure up¹ a demon and make it obey his will. Up to now, he'd always figured that it was a bit risky and so had never actually tried it. But this was an emergency and might be worth the slight risk. Only through black magic could he suddenly become an expert in a subject that had always been difficult for him.

From the shelf he quickly took out his best book on black magic, found the right page and refreshed his memory on the few simple things that he had to do. Enthusiastically, he cleared the floor by pushing the furniture against the walls. He drew the pentagram² figure on the carpet with chalk and stepped inside it. He then said the incantations.

The demon was considerably more horrible than he had anticipated. But he mustered his courage and started to explain his dilemma.

"I've always been poor at geometry," he began...

"You're telling me", said the demon gleefully.

Smiling flames, it came for him across the chalk lines of the useless hexagram³ Henry had drawn by mistake instead of the protecting pentagram.

(Frederic Brown, *Honeymoon in Hell*)

1. to cause to appear as if by magic
2. a five-pointed star, used as a magic sign
3. a star shape with six points, made from two triangles

b. In a 100-word paragraph, write the practical lesson that this story teaches you.

10 points

c. In a 150-word paragraph, write your own ending to the story.

15 points

SUBJECT 2

30 points

a. Complete each sentence with a suitable phrase:

10 points

1. It's vital that a good public transport system.
2. If you're used money, it's hard to be without
3. She went to Britain so more about British culture.
4. I sometimes dream of to read all my books.
5. I Susan practising the piano next door; it very nice.

b. Rewrite each sentence beginning as shown so that the meaning stays the same: **10 points**

1. She hurt her elbow rather badly and now she's crying.
If she.....
2. Police think the man holding the hostages was heavily armed.
The man holding the hostages
3. The meeting needn't start before eight.
There is
4. The students are not present. The teacher is not present.
Neither
5. The existence of extraterrestrial life is not confirmed by the report.
In no way

c. Translate into English: **10 points**

Părăsise lumea occidentală negând tot ceea ce știa să facă mai bine și tot ceea ce era: o expertă în vânzarea de vise. I se păruse jalnică încercarea unora de a câștiga averi din vânzarea de vise și patetică nevoia oamenilor de a visa. Era convinsă că lectura unor cărți de genul "Alchimistul" sau "Harry Potter" își bazau isteria colectivă pe disperarea oamenilor de a avea confirmarea credinței lor intime că sunt foarte speciali, dar că nimeni nu realizează asta.

(Al. Răducanu, *Alchimista*)

SUBJECT 3 **30 points**

Write an opinion essay on the following quotation:

Art is much less important than life; but what a poor life without it!

Give three relevant arguments to support your opinion. (about 300 words / 30 lines)